

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1-20 are currently pending in the application.

In the Office Action of June 20, 2005, Claim 15 was provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of Claim 14 of co-pending Patent Application No. 10/793,482, attorney docket No. BSME-1-21070. Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0055462 to Seibel.

A. Provisional Rejection of Claim 15 Under 35 U.S.C. § 101

In response to the provisional rejection of Claim 15, applicants have amended Claim 15, and are submitting an amendment for Claim 14 of the related application such that the claims are believed to no longer be co-extensive in scope. Therefore, applicants respectfully request that the provisional rejection be withdrawn.

B. Rejection of Claims 1-20 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

With respect to the anticipation rejection in light of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0055462 to Seibel, it is respectfully submitted that the reference does not disclose the each and every element of pending Claims 1 - 20. In particular the Seibel publication does not teach or suggest a vision catheter including an image channel with one or more imaging fibers, a vibration generator for vibrating the distal that includes a metallic ring around the one or more imaging fibers. Absent a teaching or suggestion in the reference of all these features, it is submitted that Claims 1, 10 and 15 are allowable.

Claims 2-9, 11-14, and 16-20 depend from the independent claims discussed above, and are therefore believed to be allowable for the reasons discussed above. In addition, certain of the

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dependent claims are believed to be allowable for additional reasons. For example, dependent Claims 4 and 17 specify that the vibration generator further comprises one or more electromagnetic coils which are driven by electrical energy so as to vibrate the metallic ring.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-20 are in condition for allowance. Therefore, applicants respectfully request that the claims be allowed and the case be passed to issue. Should any further questions remain, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

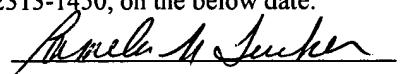
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Date: September 14, 2005



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